

ENCLOSURE IV

25 May 1949

Status of Training of the Soviet Armed Forces

GROUND FORCES

The general level of training and combat efficiency of the Soviet Ground Forces is considered to be very good. It is anticipated that maneuvers this year will be on a larger scale than in 1947 and 1948.

Reinforcements from the class of 1928 have increased Soviet strength in Germany by an estimated 60,000 during recent months. Most of this increase was used to build up the two cadre armies in Germany. These cadre armies are now estimated to be at 70 percent of T/O strength, the same as other ground units in Germany. Demobilization of the class of 1925 has not become apparent though it is expected that this class will be demobilized.

AIR FORCES

Information obtained from USAF sources as well as defected Soviet airmen indicates that in general Soviet aircrew and technical personnel do not measure up to USAF standards.

That the Soviets recognize these weaknesses is evidenced by the fact that night and instrument flying — heretofore the outstanding weak links in aircrew proficiency — are emphasized in all phases of the aviation training program.

Similarly, it must be assumed that shortcomings among maintenance personnel, as borne out by low "in commission" rates, comparatively short life of equipment, etc. are being overcome.

NAVY

The general level of training and combat efficiency of the Soviet Navy, while gradually improving, is considered lower than that of the U.S. Navy. There have been no indications of major changes or speed-ups in the Soviet Naval training program during the past year.

While it is estimated that training of submarine crews has the highest priority, it is noteworthy that the number of monthly "sightings" of Soviet submarines is considerably less so far in 1949 than it was in 1948. The inference is that "long range" submarine training may have decreased.

~~TOP SECRET~~